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Extend a helping hand with a gift to the

# STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

The Student Success Center (SSC) was formed in late 2019 to support students on their journey to degree completion. The SSC aims to equip students with timely skills and resources to be successful in their academic careers and beyond. In alignment with Penn State's commitment to providing equity in the academic experience, the Center strives to meet the unique needs of students with first-generation, low-income, historically marginalized backgrounds and identities. The SSC leads the University in building community surrounding the first-generation student experience, amplifying the voice and needs of students who are first in their family to complete a baccalaureate degree. The Student Success Center seeks to provide equitable support to undergraduates across the Commonwealth, connecting them with timely resources and services to help them navigate challenges and overcome barriers to success.



**PennState**  
Undergraduate Education



**As we strive to grow our center's reach and impact, we are asking alumni, parents, and friends to consider gifts to the following areas.**

### **DEGREE COMPLETION SUPPORT**

The Complete Penn State program extends a safety net and financial lifeline to students who experience barriers to completing their degree. The program provides financial aid to students who have exhausted all other sources of aid and connects students with other key resources as they strive toward graduation.

### **FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT SUCCESS**

Penn State has a strong tradition of supporting students who will be the first in their families to achieve a college degree. The Student Success Center is a champion for first-gen students, helping them to effectively navigate college, coaching them through challenges, and recognizing their success and unique contributions to the community. Your donation will bolster first-gen student success support services, create scholarships and enhance the effectiveness of our annual events: the National First-Generation College Celebration in the fall and First-Gen Student Support Summit in the spring.

### **ENDOWED PROGRAM FUND**

A gift to endow a program fund will provide the center with funding to be used for a range of priorities and needs. Gifts to this fund may be used to advance initiatives such as establishing a robust peer, faculty, and alumni mentoring program, launching a speaker series focused a variety of student success topics, or incorporating a new academic life coaching program for students who are at the highest risk of not completing their degree.

### **ENDOWED POSITIONS AND SPACE**

While Penn State has capable staff available to support students at the college and campus levels, University-wide coordination is required to fully support underserved students. Achieving this coordination will require growing our center's

team. By creating an endowment to fully and permanently fund a position in our office, a donor can help us to achieve and sustain the personnel capacity we require. We are also seeking gifts to enhance our space with conference technology and additional room for student meetings and programs.



“My parents never had the opportunity to pursue higher education themselves, so they wanted to make sure I had that chance. Having now graduated from Penn State, I couldn't be prouder of my accomplishments. To others who may be in a similar situation, I would tell them to chase their dreams and rest assured their hard work will pay off.”

—**Fatih Celep**

*Fatih Celep is a Philadelphia native who, with support from Complete Penn State, earned his degree in computer engineering.*

Making a gift to the Student Success Center is extending a helping hand to the students who need it most. Your gift will help students grow in ways they never thought possible, earn their degrees, and form the foundation for fulfilling lives.

### **To learn more or make a gift to the Student Success Center contact:**

Undergraduate Education Development  
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